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11/09-02
PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Mark A. DARTY ✓

Group Art Unit: 2675

Application No.: 09/667,807 ✓

Examiner: Fritz Alphonse

Filed: September 22, 2000 ✓

Docket No.: 104175

For: METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR SUBJECTING
AN ELEMENT TO AN ELECTRICAL FIELD

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Technology Center 2600

Sir:

In reply to the September 11, 2002 Office Action, reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Claims 1-25 are pending.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiners Saras and Alphonse in the November 5, 2002 personal interview. The points discussed are incorporated into the following remarks.

I. THE CLAIMS DEFINE ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 and 8-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,126,854 to Sheridan (hereinafter "Sheridan '854") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,344,594 to Sheridan (hereinafter "Sheridan '594"); and rejects claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Sheridan '854 and Sheridan '594 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,837,414 to Kitani (hereinafter "Kitani"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

EA

As discussed in the November 5, 2002 personal interview, Examiners Saras and Alphonse agreed that claims 1-25 are distinguishable over the applied art. Specifically, none of the references, either singularly or in combination, discloses, teaches or suggests at least the claimed feature "at least one channel," as claimed in independent claims 1 and 23.

Sheridon '594 only teaches the manufacture of bichromal balls used in a twisting ball display wherein the process includes the balls being maintained in the "channel" of a flowing liquid. The "channel" of Sheridan '594 has nothing to do with the claimed "channel," as claimed in independent claims 1 and 23.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 23 are distinguishable over the applied art. Claims 2-22 and 24-25, which depend from claims 1 and 23, are likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed above as well as for additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejections 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

II. CONCLUSION

For at least the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that this Application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:GPS/hs

Date: November 7, 2002

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